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FACSIMILE MESSAGE

Docket No.: IP-902

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Herbert Howell Waddell

Serial No.: 09/693,239

Art Unit: 3671

Filed: 10/20/00

Examiner: Robert Pezzuto

98 Robbins Avenue
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

October 23, 2001

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of a response to an office action that was mailed to you on October 23, 2001 for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Herbert Howell Waddell
Registration No. 34,943
Applicant *pro se*
98 Robbins Avenue
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Phone: 908-464-0683

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Sir:

RESPONSE TO AUGUST 1, 2000 OFFICE ACTION**Amendment of the Abstract**

Please amend the Abstract as shown in the "mark up" and "clean copy" amendments that follow:

Abstract(Amended)

An apparatus [is provided] for gathering, picking up and carrying loose materials such as dirt, leaves, debris, trash, hay, ice, snow and other materials or objects[. The apparatus is made up] consists of two grasping elements which each have shafts with grasping [means] devices or heads at one end, and a coupling which joins their shafts are joined by a flexible, removable coupling in such a way that the grasping means of both elements can be brought together to draw loose items between them and to hold said loose items between them. The entire apparatus can then be lifted to transport the loose items to another location, where they are released by separating the grasping means of the two elements. The coupling may be removed from one or both elements to permit their use separately]. The grasping elements [with grasping means] can be commercially available rakes or shovels. Loose materials are gathered and picked up by placing one hand on the shaft of each grasping element and drawing the heads together. The coupling is flexible and can be moved along the shafts of the grasping elements to change the manner in which the elements function together. When the coupling is positioned at the end near the grasping heads, the apparatus functions in the manner of a post hole digger. When it is positioned near the middle or far end of the shafts, the apparatus functions in the manner of rake tongs or tweezers tongs.